We will examine typological issues relating to the grammatical function “subject” and develop a theory of subjecthood within a general theory of grammatical functions. Among the topics to be discussed: the subject as the expression of an argument, the relational hierarchy, subjects and anaphora, subjects in multi-clausal constructions, syntactic ergativity, and the universality of the subject.

Course Outline

Semester A
1. Subjects
   a. What is a “Subject”
   b. Properties of Subjects
2. Typology
   a. Ergativity
   b. Subject Properties in “Mixed-Subject” Languages
3. The Most Prominent Argument
   a. Argument Mapping: Inverse Mapping theories
   b. Argument Mapping: Against Inverse Mapping
   c. Predicted Properties
4. Pivot
   a. Dixon’s concept
   b. Van Valin and LaPolla’s concept
   c. Falk’s concept

Semester B
5. “Wh Movement” Constructions
6. Control and Raising Constructions
7. Universality of “Subject”
8. Principles and Parameters

Course requirements
Term project
Seminar paper (student option)

Teacher information
Prof. Yehuda N. Falk
Office 7812 ☑ Sundays and Wednesdays 10:15–11:00 ☑ 83978
Home Phone 672-3803 ☑ msyfalk@mscc.huji.ac.il
http://pluto.mscc.huji.ac.il/~msyfalk/
Course: http://pluto.mscc.huji.ac.il/~msyfalk/Subjects/